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| TITLE | Sharing Books with Babies: Promoting Early Literacy in Early Care and Education. [Videotape]. |
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ABSTRACT

Suggesting that very young children spend every waking minute getting ready for kindergarten, this videotape for caregivers and early childhood teachers shows how to support early literacy skill development by sharing stories, relationships, and books with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in care and education settings. The 25-minute videotape features footage from Head Start programs and other care and education programs to illustrate how nurturing relationships within literature-rich environments can help young children develop the literacy behaviors necessary to enter school ready to learn. The video is organized in three parts. Part 1 focuses on early literacy behaviors and highlights emerging skills evident in infants' book handling and page turning, toddlers' symbolic learning, and preschoolers' story retelling and memorizing. Part 2 illustrates daily opportunities to support language, reading, and writing skills in several care and education settings, including free play, choice time, nap time, diapering, snack, transition times, and circle time. Highlighted are the importance of linking language to sensory play, of developing a trusting relationship between caregiver/teacher and child, of using music and massage to relax infants/toddlers to support learning, and of using books to support children during transitions. Part 3 illustrates care and education environments that are rich in print- and picture-based materials use the materials to structure the room and the daily activities. The videotape concludes by asserting that when young children are supported by nurturing relationships in literature-rich environments in which they share books with caring adults on a daily basis, they are more likely to enter school ready to learn. (KB)

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